

# South Canterbury Genealogy

January/February 2023



## From the editor

*Carol Bell*



The story of my DNA investigations continues. Vindicated!! The daughter of one of my target fathers has tested as a 1700cM match to my man, well within the range of a half-sister. He's delighted and she's very welcoming, along with others of her family, so that's a happy ending for all of us. More family members are testing so there's more to learn yet, but the basics are definitely proven. It's been quite an exercise and I've learned heaps I'm hoping I can apply to my own DNA searches.

I am, as I write, on a perambulation around the South Island, visiting friends and family members. We've gone up the east coast, crossed over and are now at the top of the west coast. In fact we have decided to drive to the very top of the road at Kohaihai camp - the end (or beginning) of the Heaphy Track (pictured), because we're planning to visit Jackson's Bay at the very bottom of the West Coast road. One end to the other. I am also squishing sandflies on the computer screen as I write - a sure sign I'm on the West Coast.



# Chair's report



*from Liz Shea*



South Canterbury genealogical resources [timaru.gen.nz](http://timaru.gen.nz)

It seems to have been an endless hot summer here in South Canterbury and as I write this the temperature is hitting 30 degrees (on my terrace). Plants are wilting, the cucumber has succumbed despite watering and the hanging baskets have sizzled before my eyes (all in buckets now being revived). A hot day is also an excuse to stay inside in the cool and go ancestor hunting.

I have been trying to find my great uncle's first marriage for ages, but with a name like William Brown my only clue is that the bride's name was Maggie. William, aka great Uncle Bill, married in England in the 1920s and emigrated to New Zealand, but family lore said that "Maggie" didn't want to come to NZ and leave her family behind so she stayed put. My mother could recall Uncle Bill returning to England when she was about six or seven, (born 1924) presumably to obtain a divorce. He returned to New

Zealand and remarried May Edith Fabian in the 1930s.

With the access to the 1921 census, I found Uncle Bill living with his parents at 43 Dunmow Road, Stratford, showing as single, so that meant he married after 1921. A quick trip into FMP found a marriage in Stratford in January 1927 for a

William Brown, address 43 Dunmow Road which gave the bride's name as Margaret Duncombe. A review of her tree confirmed that she came from a large family (she was one of 13 children). Margaret married again in 1936. Uncle Bill went off to New Zealand in May 1927, by himself but stating he was married, but of course not accompanied by his wife.

Uncle Bill featured in my life as he sponsored my parents' immigration to New Zealand and lived not far from our first home in Spreydon. He had served in WW1 with the Royal Engineers and I have his hat badge and some of the trench art that he made – an inkwell and letter opener made from old shells. Sometimes you just have to be patient and try lots of different web sites to solve the family tree puzzles.

The SC society starts a fresh year with a range of events to keep our members interested. We welcome new members as you always can learn from others by sharing your stories.



**Annual General Meeting of the South Canterbury Genealogy Society Inc.**

Tuesday, 18 April 2023 at 7.30pm

*(Note – week later than usual because of Easter.)*

Agenda will be included with March meeting notice.



# News



From [https://famnet.org.nz/newsletters/FamNet/February\\_2023/Newsletter](https://famnet.org.nz/newsletters/FamNet/February_2023/Newsletter).

## From Diane Wilson of The Wilson Collection

The past two months have produced some of my best genealogical moments. I have been touched beyond belief by the kindness and generosity of fellow genealogists. So many have shared their certificates and research to add to the marriage details in the Wilson Collection.

I was given a huge shock to get a recent diagnosis from what I first thought was my hiatus hernia playing up. Pancreatic cancer was not on my horizon, however, it has given me time to organise the continuation of the Wilson Collection and ensure there is enough money left for the team to keep going. The Collection has always been personally financed by me, so I was not under any pressure to produce or display records in any special format. This type of project, if you use professionals to create it, is not cheap but hopefully will continue to prove its value to you all.

The Wilson Collection came into being to continue to make available many records created over time by so many fellow genealogists. I had received a letter from the NZSG board, of the time, advising me that they did not want to renew the agreement for the publication of the various CDs we had created. Publication of these resources had ensured that the NZSG received a steady cash stream from sales of the various CDs. This funding assisted in the running of the library and the Society. It was impossible to negotiate a solution with the board and I am still unsure of why they decided to discontinue to offer sales of these resources. Rather than the material being lost I decided to make the indexes available for all as a free resource, and I created the Wilson Collection. Feedback from users around the world tells me this is a very useful Collection.

I was touched by the thoughtfulness of a gift recently. A parcel arrived with a delightful oval, cross-stitched memento for 'The Queen Bee' of the Wilson Collection. I was thrilled and grateful to receive this acknowledgement of not only my work, but that of so many supporters who have made the Collection possible. We have just updated the Marriage data and there now are 360,738 marriage place records available. Not bad for a small team of inputters!

Do please spread the word, donate certificates and remember – you can't promote a secret! Good luck with all your research, it has been fun and very fulfilling

[www.wilsoncollection.co.nz](http://www.wilsoncollection.co.nz)

## Plans for the year

**February** - Stafford Street as it was. Meet at the piazza 7pm, ending at Coffee Culture for supper

**March** - Remembrance Army headstones at Timaru Cemetery

**April** - AGM





# 52 ancestors in 52 weeks or 12 ancestors in 12 months - or a variation on the theme



<https://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/52-ancestors-in-52-weeks/>

This concept has been discussed before but is well worth revisiting as we begin our genealogical year. Did you make any new year resolutions? I love resolutions and always make promises to myself that I try hard to keep, with varying degrees of success. This plan aims to help us take our research to the last stage - producing an account that will be of use and interest to succeeding generations. That's such a daunting prospect, but using this method we can break it down into bite-sized pieces and no matter what our level of literacy or commitment is we can produce something on a regular basis that can be gathered together into a viable family history. Some local members have already employed this method with a great deal of success, so be assured that it does work if you stick with it. As you'll see from the heading there are a few ways this can be approached - on a weekly or monthly basis, or in any form that suits you best, but probably a small weekly contribution would be least painful.

The original plan was promoted by Amy Johnson Crow (link above). She said:

"You've worked hard on your genealogy. You've made some fantastic discoveries. But what do you actually do with it? Those discoveries don't do much good just sitting in your file cabinet or on your computer. That's where 52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks comes in. There are two common problems that I hear from people: They don't like the prospect of writing a book or they don't know what to write about/share with others. It's a series of weekly prompts to get you to think about an ancestor and share something about them. The guesswork of "who should I write about" is taken care of. You can blog, post on your favourite social media, send an email to your cousins -- whatever you want to do to share something about that ancestor. The point is to get you to take that knowledge that you have and the discoveries that you've made and get them out of the filing cabinet/computer/pile of papers and do something with it. How you share it is up to you. You don't actually have to write something if you don't want to! You could share a photo, make a video, record yourself talking. The point is to do something."

Many others have taken up this idea and there are a few ways it can be approached. The original idea was a series of prompts - words or phrases to get you thinking about how that could apply to one of your ancestors and start work. That might be writing, collecting photos, or even creating a video or sound bite. Whatever works for you. Or you could take an ancestor, a family, a section of your tree or a theme and work on just that area for a week - or a fortnight - or a month. Or you could apply the prompts to yourself and create a personal memoir. And if you created that personal memoir for yourself this year, perhaps you could apply it to your parents next year - your grandparents the year after ...?

As it's February already the 52-week schedule is not going to work. Perhaps we can cut it down to a February-November schedule or 40 weeks. I include here some of the prompts I've found online to get you started. You could sign up for Amy Johnson Crow's free 52-week challenge, use some of the prompts and suggestions here, or you could invent your own schedule. But do start. Make this the year that you start to bring it all together. Pick a prompt - think about it, pick an ancestor and start making notes. Give it your best shot, and research and write as fully as you can. Try to allow yourself a special few hours a week for this. Make it your time for you and your ancestors Remember our group offers a Wednesday-afternoon writing help meeting. Join that if you think it might help.

## 52 ancestors in 52 weeks prompts - pick a topic and start writing

Beginnings

I'd like to meet ...

Favourite photo

Out of place

Education

Oops

My uncle

Social media

At the beach

Namesakes

In the Kitchen

Cemeteries

Valentines

Making a fortune

Friends

Loss - fire, flood

Name's the same

Sport

Emigration

Birthdays

In the city

War

Against the law

My brick wall

Brothers

Holidays

In the army

Churchgoing

Going to school

In the country

The village inn

My aunt

Enemies

Funerals

My guardian angel

In the garden

On the road

Engaged

Craftwork

Entertainment

I've seen the Queen

Unusual names

Guy Fawkes

Frogs, mice and spiders

Travelling

Old age

Christmas

New Year

Clare Palliser has shared this history of her family with permission from the author. It is reproduced here as a piece of local interest and also to show what can be achieved in our own family history when we put pen to paper. It will be serialised for this format and printed over the next few months.

# CISSY

1888-1967

by Libby Clark



*The continued story of Siceley Clark  
and the Palliser family: From Yorkshire  
to Timaru to Napier*

## Frank and Margaret

Frank, baptised Francis, was the youngest of Charles and Elizabeth's family. He must have been a regular visitor to Saltburn-by-the-Sea, or maybe he lived there for a while, as he was said to have been a volunteer lifeboatman there for 15 years. He married Margaret Warwick at the Emmanuel Church there in 1877. Margaret was 20 when she married Frank. She was born in the tiny village of Wilton, about 60kms east of Northallerton, the third of four daughters. Her eldest sister, Ruth, was a witness at her wedding, and the second eldest sister was Siceley. The 1861 census finds her family living at Ebberston, 55kms east of Northallerton.

Their father died young at 48 in 1870, and Margaret soon moved to Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, where her widowed mother and siblings were. This is about 100kms from Northallerton, and we can only speculate as to when, where and how Frank and Margaret met. Perhaps the most likely scenario is that Frank had a job in the village where Margaret was living or working.

Frank was 27 and Margaret 25 when they left Yorkshire with his parents Charles and Elizabeth for New Zealand in October 1880. They had been married for three years, and had two children – a girl, Elizabeth, who was two, and a boy, Thomas Charles, who was 2 months old. The family sailed from London on October 23 on the SS Northumberland, pictured here. The vessel had been chartered by the New Zealand Shipping Co, with 272 passengers aboard.



It called in at Plymouth, leaving there two days later, and the voyage to New Zealand took 61 days.

We know from the passenger list that the Palliser family was in steerage. Whether this was because they couldn't afford cabins, or because they were assisted migrants, we have been unable to establish. What we do know is that conditions in steerage were atrocious. Steerage was a low-ceilinged space (it could be as little as 1.8 metres) below the main deck. Those paying their own way were usually in cabins, and on this sailing, steerage passengers outnumbered those in cabins by 210 to 62. Writing of the conditions in steerage, one cabin passenger cited by *Te Ara* commented: "Poor creatures, it is a horrible place between decks, so many people in so small a space, I wonder how they live."

Steerage passengers slept in tiers of bunks. They were provided with mattresses, but not bedding. Bunk space was cramped, with tables and forms filling the area between tiers of bunks. Steerage was divided into three compartments, with married couples being between single men (who were in the forward area) and single women (who were aft).

An account of the Northumberland's voyage in the Evening Post relates that a few days after leaving Plymouth, the steamer hit a heavy gale in which the captain was knocked over, breaking his leg and dislocating his ankle. He was reportedly "practically disabled" for the rest of the voyage, and the vessel was "virtually in the charge of the first officer." The steamer stopped at St Vincent for two days, and ran into another heavy gale on December 6. Imagine all this, with a toddler and a baby, for two months.

The ship arrived in Wellington on Christmas Day, but there was more hardship to come. Because there were 10 - 12 severe cases of measles on board, and one steerage passenger had died from rheumatic fever, crew and passengers were consigned to quarantine on Somes (now Mātiu Somes) Island. Passengers and luggage were fumigated and sent to the barracks, where they were confined until mid-January. Passengers complained about the conditions in quarantine, as a result of which there was an official investigation and report. The first complaint was that they ran out of bread; it was being baked on board the ship, but could not be landed because of – yes – a heavy gale. The baker tried to make a batch in the barracks, but the ovens would not work, so scones were offered instead. The next complaint was that there was no milk. In due course, five dozen tins of "preserved milk" were landed. People had to carry their own water for washing.

We do not know how our family travelled to Timaru, but Charles was in a position by then to provide accommodation for them, temporarily at least. They would have been enormously relieved to reach their destination, and we can only guess at the sense of anticipation and hope that gradually surfaced as they recovered from the voyage.

## Timaru as it was

In view of the fact that Frank developed a close friendship with tangata whenua, this account ought to start with the Māori history of the place. To do that justice, however, would entail an entirely new piece of research, which is beyond the scope of the present account.

The key element in Timaru's history that has a bearing on the Palliser story is the development of the port. The first settlers arrived in the 1850s and 1860s, and by the time Frank's brother Charles arrived, the population had doubled, having been made a borough in 1868.

The site was significant in that the headland provided the only sheltered spot between Banks Peninsula and the Otago Peninsula. There had been a whaling station there before an early settler developed a landing service for unloading goods and shipping wool. Boats were lowered into the sea on a slipway, and rowed or hauled out to ships anchored offshore.

By the late 1860s, it was recognised that the town needed an artificial harbour, and the southern breakwater was completed in 1878. In the late 1880s, Thomas Jones was contracted to build the northern breakwater, and in partnership with Charles Palliser the job was finished. Over the next few years, the main breakwater was extended to prevent shingle and sand from drifting in to the port area. Palliser and Jones thus played a crucial role in the development of the port, as well as other major infrastructure projects in the borough. Their quarry and a large works shed feature in many early photographs of the port. This one is dated 1885.



**MORE TO COME NEXT TIME . . .**



# Meeting reports



*with Lesley Tennent*



## December 2022

Our monthly meeting was held 13 December 2022, 6-30pm start. Members met at Arowhenua Cemetery, Temuka, guided by a member, Tim Brosnahan. Liz Shea welcomed 17 members.

**Apologies:** Jill Welford, Carolyn Johnston, Dave Jack and Lois Shears.

Tim Brosnahan gave a brief history of Arowhenua.

The cemetery is part of the Maori Reserve, and the graveyard is administered by trustees. In 1932 the church, originally Anglican, became open to other denominations.

At the time of the 1840 Treaty, there was no one living in Arowhenua and the area was just forest. At Milford, where there was a fortified pa, there were approximately 200 inhabitants. Because there were invaders from Kapiti Coast, many Maori filtered further south creating interfamily marriages. War parties came from Kapiti each year but Te Rauparaha was eventually vanquished. Peace allowed more intertribal marriages to take place.

In 1866 a wooden church was built on the Maori Land. By this time all the inhabitants from Milford had moved to Arowhenua. Sickness became a problem. A healer visited, removed tapus and healed the people. In the 1920s the Ratana Arch was built.



The present cemetery is the 2<sup>nd</sup> burial ground (now Christian) on Huirapa Road. The 1<sup>st</sup> burial ground is further up the road - there are no headstones. Maori were buried there after the move from Milford. The burials are unmarked and unrecorded.

Present burials have a mound for about one year, then there is an unveiling of the headstone. All inhabitants related and interlinked. If there are any records, they are at the marae office.

If a person has links with Arowhenua Marae, then they are entitled to be buried here.

Surname Torepe – Wiremu (Tim's uncle). Well thought of & involved in the Community & Lions. Torepe Fields named after him, Waaka, Solomons, Te Maiharoa, Pehi, Rehu, Anglem, Hopkinsons (Tim's relations), Russell, to name a few..

There is a commemorative stone with a front door key set in it, in about the spot where the front door of the original wooden church had stood. Tim had a family photo showing the old church.

Even in this 2<sup>nd</sup> graveyard, there are many unmarked graves from before the 1930s.

Tim was thanked for his interesting history and follow-up tour of the cemetery.





<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/>

# Olwyn's South Canterbury website

This is Waimate, South Canterbury, New Zealand. Above Waimate on the hillside is an iconic White Horse, a large white monument, created to celebrate the many thousands of Clydesdale and Shire horses (draught horses) which did so much for the development and prosperity of the Waimate district and New Zealand. Retired farmers Norman and Betty Hayman and helpers built Waimate's white horse monument in 1968. Norman didn't want people to forget the work of the loyal Clydesdale and Shire horses. Norman left school at age 15 to drive a team of horses, usually four horses, on the family farm. He fed and groomed their ten horses early in the morning before setting off to the paddock at 8am.



Horses played a vital role in pulling ploughs to work the tussock country. Te Waimate, the run taken up by Michael Studholme the area's first European settler, had 100 working draught horses in 1870 and employed teamsters, blacksmiths and a saddler along with station hand. A team could travel 32kms a day in the field, ploughing, discing, sowing and later pulling the machines to harvest/gather the crops like wheat and potatoes. The harvest of wheat was huge in South Canterbury the 1890s and horses were used to pull farm equipment. The local councils had teams of horses for road making. These horses had tremendous strength; three horses could pull a dray-load of shingle from a pit. Double furrow ploughs and other horse drawn farm equipment like a sickle mower or a rake still dot the area gardens and farm entrances.

The Clydesdale is a draught horse originating in Scotland. The Shire, from England, is appreciably bigger and probably makes a better plough horse, while the Clydesdales have more character and are enthusiastic workers. A draught horse is a strong horse. Horses also pulled the carts of milk and groceries and for rural families horses were a means of travel. When the traction engine arrived horse numbers fell. In 1921 there were 7546 horses in the Waimate district, including 5036 draught horses. Clydesdales were worth about 65 pounds in the 1920s and fell to 15 pounds in the 1930s. Tractors were replacing the horses.

Jack Sutherland, a farmer in the Centerwood district, gave eight hectares of land at the top of the hill for a park overlooking Waimate. Along with Ron Hutt, Norman Hayman found the best spot for ease of access and visibility for a horse silhouette on the hillside. They placed sheets on the hillside, anchored by stones and drove down the hill to check how it looked from different vantage points. It took three months to build the horse from 1220 concrete slabs laid by helpers using a trolley on rails to carry each slab to the site. The final cost was \$240 paid for by donations from farmers, teamster and horse people. The memorial was refurbished in 2022. The White Horse is 18.29m high, 14.63m long, 4.88 head (2.5 ton) and is at 396.24m asl.

For o'er the sea they say, the ploughman homeward plods,  
In the hundred years now passed, right here they turned the sods  
The proud majestic horses, loved and cared for each day  
Repaid the weary ploughman in each and every way  
Acres were ploughed each season with their help upon this plain  
Oats and wheat and barley grew, all life-giving grain.  
In what way can their passing be remembered still  
The Clydesdale and the ploughmen?

Their friends made the horse on the hill.  
Its whiteness stands out from afar as it guards the town each day  
saying to us one and all, "For you I ploughed the way  
I broke in all your pastures and helped to build each road,  
I pulled the carts of hay and wool in many a heavy load."  
So let us each day think of it with pride. I'm sure we will.  
Our way of life we surely owe to the white horse on the hill.



# Members' Interests

*from Teresa Scott*

WASLEY	NEW ZEALAND	Westland Ross	1872+
WATERS	ENGLAND	Kent	All 1780+
WATERS	NEW ZEALAND	Wellington	1850+
WATSON	SCOTLAND	Berwick Foulden	1700s
WATSON	SCOTLAND	Nairn Auldearn	abt 1700
WATTS	NEW ZEALAND	Otago Dunedin	1886+
WEAVERS	ENGLAND	Essex Twinstead	1775-1880
WEAVERS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury, Orari	1870+
WELSFORD	ENGLAND	London	pre1873
WELSFORD	NEW ZEALAND	Canterbury Christchurch	1873+
WHITCOMBE	ENGLAND		1800s
WHITE	SCOTLAND	West Lothian Linlithgow	1850s
WHITE	SCOTLAND	West Lothian Torphicen	1850s
WHITEHEAD	ENGLAND Kent	St Mary Cray	pre1900
WHITTINGHAM	ENGLAND	Lancashire Preston	1816
WHYTE	SCOTLAND	West Lothian Linlithgow	1850s
WHYTE	SCOTLAND	West Lothian Torphicen	1850s
WILKINSON	ENGLAND	Lancashire Pendleton	1840+
WILKINSON	ENGLAND	Lancashire Salford	1840+
WILKINSON	ENGLAND	Warwickshire Foleshill	All
WILKINSON	NEW ZEALAND	Canterbury	1862+
WILKINSON	NEW ZEALAND	Otago Dunedin	1862+
WILLIAMS	AUSTRALIA	Victoria Melbourne	c1850
WILLIAMS	ENGLAND Kent	Gillingham	1800-1900
WILLING	ENGLAND	Devon Holbeton	1800s
WINTRUP	SCOTLAND	Roxburghshire	All
WOOLEY	ENGLAND	Cheshire Nantwich	1800s
WOONTON	ENGLAND	Dorset Charmouth	1700-1900
WOONTON	ENGLAND	Somerset Chaffcombe	1700-1900
WOONTON	ENGLAND	Somerset Chard	1700-1900
WOONTON	ENGLAND	Somerset Lopen	1700-1900
WOTTON	ENGLAND	Plymouth	1750-1890
YOUNG	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	1700+
YOUNG	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	1859+
ZANDER	NEW ZEALAND	Mid-Canterbury Ashburton	1880-1920
ZANDER	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury Timaru	1880-1920

**Are your genealogical interests reflected in this list? If not, contact Teresa Scott to be included. Take the opportunity to make contact with family members.**



# Library report

*from Teresa Scott*

## Recent accessions include:

### Newsletters 2022, 2023:

Cambridge – February 2023  
Canterbury Genealogy Society – February 2023  
Dunedin – January-February 2023  
Hawke's Bay – February 2023  
Hibiscus Coast – December 2022; January 2023; February 2023  
Hutt Valley – February 2023  
Kapiti – January 2023  
Kilbirnie – February 2023  
Matamata – February 2023  
New Plymouth Genealogy – February 2023  
South Canterbury Genealogy – November-December 2022  
Southland – December 2022/January 2023  
Wairarapa – February 2023  
Wellington – February 2023  
Whanganui – October-December



*Please send request for forwarding to Teresa*

I recently completed a book on my Finlayson family ancestors who arrived in Lyttelton, New Zealand from Scotland between 1859 and 1869. Of the 400 pages in this book, there are 25 pages on my great grandparent's life in the Peel Forest/Geraldine/Tinwald area between 1880-1914 and 15 pages on the lives of my grandmother and her children in Timaru from 1910 on. In addition two of the family were killed in service for their country, one born at Peel Forest killed in WW I and one born in Timaru killed in WW II. The Timaru District Library has a copy of this book for viewing if anyone is interested – ***Sorrow, Sacrifice and Success – the Story of Alexander Finlayson and Siblings John, Peter and Margaret in New Zealand***, by Trevor J Ward, published 2021.

Trevor J Ward  
3847 Devonshire Drive,  
Surrey, B.C.  
V3Z 0M2  
Canada  
5 January 2023

# Local contacts

## SC Genealogy - Office bearers

Convener: Liz Shea 03 684 7790 Branch Contact sheafamily@farmside.co.nz

Minute secretary: Lesley Tennent 03 612 6759

Treasurer: Carolyn Johnston 03 684 5709

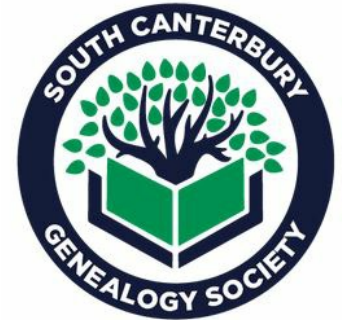
Committee: Teresa Scott 03 688 9034 Library - ter123@actrix.co.nz

Lois Shears 03 688 1655 School Rolls

Clare Palliser 03 688 0896

Hilary Coles 03 615 7195

Carol Bell 03 684 7733 Newsletter - carolbel49@gmail.com



Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the museum.

Research help is also available at our rooms 19 Royal Arcade Thursday 10am - 1pm and at the museum every Sunday 1.30pm - 4pm.

The group library is available at the museum whenever the research room is open - Tuesday to Friday and Sunday 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Books can be borrowed on Sundays but must be signed out by the librarian or a Sunday volunteer.

A working group meets on Thursday mornings at the museum to transcribe various historical documents. Can you help? Contact Lois on 688-1655

The "Writing up your Family History" group meets Wednesday 1-3pm. If you would like help getting your research to the final stage contact Carol at [carolbel49@gmail.com](mailto:carolbel49@gmail.com) or 027 3399447.

